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ABSTRACT

The document provides a list of 10 of the international agriculture activities available for the Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters' participation: Work Experience Abroad (WEA); Development Projects; FFA Study Seminars; Care, Inc.; Walk for Development; Agriculutural Seminars; Heifer Project; CROP; World Neighbors; and Meals for Millions. Explained in detail is the Work Experience Abroad Program, an FFA educational program providing practical work experience in another country. The program is looked at in terms of its requirements, selection of families, program highlights, supervision, sightseeing tours, program costs, financing, program application, language instruction, and hosting WEA students from abroad. Application forms are provided for the WEA program for FFA members and for chapters hosting a WEA exchange student and international education report form for use by each chapter are included. (BP)

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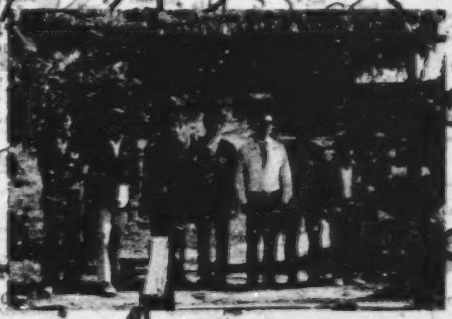

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FFA INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

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A LIST OF SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There are many activities in international agriculture available for chapter exploration and involvement. No attempt will be made to list them all here, nor are those suggested below necessarily the ones that might be of most interest to your chapter. Many organizations including churches, schools, and civic groups may already be involved internationally and welcome your participation.

1. WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD—An FFA Educational Program providing a practical working experience in another country.

2. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS—Providing educational materials, seeds, or livestock to youth in developing countries (details and countries currently involved available from the National FFA Center).

3. FFA STUDY SEMINARS—Two to three week programs are arranged primarily for State Associations to Europe or other countries. (A listing is available from the National FFA Center after February 1.)

4. CARE, INC.—Direct queries or contributions to CARE, Inc., 660 First Avenue, New York, New York 10016.

5. WALKS FOR DEVELOPMENT—A unique program designed to raise funds needed for development projects at home and abroad. Contact: Young World Development, American Freedom from Hunger Foundation, 1717 "H" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

6. AGRICULTURAL SEMINARS—Short Courses, Fairs, and Exhibitions—Each year a variety of activities of short duration for teachers or students takes place overseas. (For information write the National FFA Center.)

7. HEIFER PROJECT—Help provide livestock and technical know-how to other countries. Direct inquiries to: Heifer Project, Inc., P.O. Box 808, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

8. CROP—Information available on how your chapter can help by writing: CROP, 2619 Phillips Street, Box 968, Elkhart, Indiana 46514.

9. WORLD NEIGHBORS—Assistance to developing countries. Write: World Neighbors, 5116 North Portland Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112.

10. MEALS FOR MILLIONS—Improving the diets of undernourished peoples in Latin America, and other areas. Contact: Meals for Millions, 1800 Olympic Boulevard, Santa Monica, California 90406.

WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD

The WEA program is designed for active and alumni members of FFA and cooperating organizations around the world. The program's goal is to offer practical work experience in another country and provide for the observation and study of agricultural methods. It allows the student to become familiar with the history, culture, traditions, and way of life of another people. Participants represent their country as junior ambassadors," participate in activities to exchange ideas and improve agriculture and rural youth organizations.

REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for participation in the program include: have completed the junior year in high school and be an active, collegiate, or alumni FFA member; satisfactorily completed the equivalent of two years of vocational agriculture (360 hours); have had good practical experience in farming, ranching, horticulture, or other specialized field; be recommended by the vocational agriculture teacher, high school principal or college course advisor, and a neighbor. Applicants going to countries with a language other than English should have a basic knowledge of the language, or be willing to take and complete a school approved or home study course offered by FFA after being accepted for the program.

Each participant will be required to select a subject or research project in advance, gather materials while in the host country, and complete an essay or paper within 60 days of returning home. Ample time will be arranged for the collection of materials with the host family. The completed essay may be submitted to school or college for credit purposes.

SELECTION OF FAMILIES

The selection of farms or training establishments and placement of students with host families is made by the cooperating rural youth organization and/or exchange student office in the participating countries. Countries that have or may be participating in any given year include: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany (West), Ghana, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Korea (South), Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Thailand. As far as possible, applicants will be placed according to their preference.

Selected participants will be taken in as members of the family, and work on the farm or at other agricultural business, along with the host family. Occasionally, students will live with one family and work at another place. Horticultural and agribusiness placements in some countries do not offer a family living situation, and require the location of other living facilities. Assigned tasks vary with ability and initiative, and hours worked per week will vary with the country and season. In many cases work will be harder than the custom in the United States, and will consist of more hand work. WEA students receive room and board, plus a small cash stipend. The stipend is based upon the standard of living in the country assigned, and the normal wage paid to students who are training for an occupation, as well as government regulations affecting student payment.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Programs vary in length from a minimum of three months, to six months, and a one-year stay involving two continents. For vocational agricultural students who are required to obtain practical experience in placement in agricultural production, horticulture or floriculture, ag mechanics, or other agribusiness such as feed, seed and farm supply, the WEA program can be adapted to provide for credits toward completion of school requirements. The National FFA Staff welcomes the opportunity to work with school administrators in designing a work experience program which meets necessary requirements. Agriculture instructors should contact the National FFA Center to set up a credit program.

The WEA program begins with a three day Orientation Conference in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia at the National FFA Center. Extensive use is made of national staff personnel, Agricultural Attaches from the Embassies, and other International organizations. A two-day midpoint conference is held at a central location for European participants.

Upon return to Washington, students meet for one day for an Evaluation Seminar before returning home. Attendance at the National FFA Convention for a recognition program is expected of all participants, but not mandatory if attendance at school prevents it.

SUPERVISION

Supervisory visits are made by staff personnel to the students placed in European countries. Problems can be discussed and solved, and progress in adapting to the new country and meeting school requirements is evaluated. As numbers of students placed in other parts of the world increase, supervision by staff will be extended there. At present the youth or exchange organization in the respective country will provide needed assistance.

TOURS

An optional, organized "Holiday Tour" is also offered to the European group. About 10 days in length, it takes WEA participants to 4-5 countries, and includes all transportation, sightseeing tours, hotel and meal costs. The Tour immediately precedes the midpoint conference.

In other areas of the world organized tours are not currently available. Assistance with personal travel is given by youth organization officials.

PROGRAM COSTS

*FFA members applying for the WEA program should plan on the following approximate costs.**

Europe, three months	$ 825.00
Europe, six months	935.00
Oceania, 3 or 6 months**	1,625.00
Asia, 3 or 6 months**	1,625.00
South America, 3 or 6 months	5-800.00
Around-the-World, one year (six months Europe, six months Oceania or Asia)	2,200.00

**Travel based on San Francisco departure.

*Approximate costs shown are effective at time of printing, and are subject to change. Contact the National FFA Center for current costs.

Included in the cost is round-trip jet transportation from Washington, D.C.; three nights lodging in Alexandria; transportation to the farm or training establishment from port of arrival; health and accident insurance; program management and supervision (In Europe, a two-day midpoint conference with transportation is included in the basic cost). Not included, but required are a passport, immunizations, FFA Jacket, and language aids.

A WEA Handbook, a variety of information on U.S. and international agriculture, and selected information on the host country is mailed to the participant at various intervals prior to departure.

FINANCING

Most chapters have financed their exchange through normal fund-raising activities. Local businesses and civic organizations have been good supporters. Some State FFA Associations assist in providing financing. It is also recommended that the participant contribute a portion of the program cost.

Some ideas used previously include "International Night" pancake suppers, sales of "imported items" such as Dutch bulbs, and support from the local Alumni affiliate. Some participants have even obtained financial assistance by doing a series of articles for the home town paper, or taping radio reports. When the decision is made early in the school year to nominate a member for the program, activities can be planned to generate the needed funds.

APPLYING

A deposit of $100 made payable to "Future Farmers of America" is required with the application form. Final payment, which is based upon costs to destination, is due upon receipt of country assignment, but not later than 45 days prior to departure date. Cancellations with full refund will be accepted up to date of country assignment. After that date, expenses incurred in making placements or out-of-pocket costs will be forfeited.

Applicants are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, provided that qualifications as stated in the application meet necessary requirements. Because of this *early* application is recommended. Only a limited number of opportunities are available in each country, or area of the world. This varies from year to year, and is partially dependent upon the number of young people that can successfully be placed for training in the United States.

Completed applications, with passport-size photos (approximately 2½ x 3 inches) must be submitted to the State FFA Office at least two weeks prior to the *deadline date* for applications at the National FFA Center. The *deadline date* at the National FFA Center is *April 1*. Applications will be accepted and processed beginning September 1.

Often FFA members think that the possibility of being accepted because of the competition is not good. But average FFA members who have the necessary agricultural skills, are interested in other countries, and who exhibit a real interest in learning another language, or helping to assist in improving agriculture, will be accepted. It must be remembered that the WEA program provides the opportunity to live and work as a native of the country, rather than as a guest who sees and does only what others want him to see and do.

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Basic and intensive courses for home study utilizing a cassette recorder, text, drills and dictionary, are available from the National FFA Center at moderate cost in the following languages: Danish, Dutch, French, German, Spanish, and Swedish. Additional languages will be added as needed. Specially designed agricultural units are included in the language program, following the basic lessons. Students should plan to study at home a minimum of 10 weeks in the language, unless prior study has been completed in school. Costs for the FFA language series desired will be furnished upon request.

HOSTING WEA STUDENTS FROM ABROAD

Chapters have a unique opportunity to serve as hosts for young people representing their home countries and organizations in the U.S.A. WEA is becoming quite popular with youth organizations in other countries, and FFA is taking the lead in locating suitable agricultural occupational experiences for interested students.

FFA Chapters who want to host foreign students should apply on the "Chapter Application to Host an Exchange Student" form provided. It will be necessary to locate a good family—preferably one that has FFA members—that can offer training and employment in a specific field such as production agriculture (crops, livestock, etc.), horticulture, mechanics, farm supply, viticulture, or other specialized fields.

The students are placed in specific types of operations and are expected to work an approximate 40 hour week (depending upon the season), receive room and board with the family, and a cash stipend of $125 minimum per month.

Opportunities should be provided to attend civic and social events, FFA meetings, contests, and conventions as well as sightseeing in the immediate area. The FFA Advisor coordinates the placement program in the community and works closely with the FFA Staff in providing supervision.

Needless to say, the presence of a foreign student in the community offers many opportunities for publicity and gives an added dimension to the FFA Program of Activities. Students from developed countries come for practical training and do not expect to attend school on a regular basis. The usual length of stay is April through October. Students from South America usually arrive in July and remain for up to one year. Occasionally their program is set up to provide for attendance at Vo-Ag classes, as well as practical work experience.

Applications to host WEA participants from other countries may be sent to the State FFA office at any time. Other publications available to the Chapter on WEA include a pamphlet "What Others Are Saying About WEA," and "A Guide For Host Families." These are available on request from the State Office, or write directly to the National FFA Center, Alexandria, Virginia 22309.

WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD

IP-1
(Rev. 74)

APPLICATION FORM FOR FFA MEMBERS

Name _____

Street or Rural Route _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(area code) _____ / _____
Home Phone Number

Date and Place of Birth _____

High School _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(area code) _____ / _____
School Phone Number

COMPLETE EACH QUESTION IN DETAIL. USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

1. List FFA activities, offices and degrees held, awards won, committees, etc.

2. Describe your farming program or occupational experience program.

3. Please give full details on your parents' farm or the farm where you have gained practical experience. Include size of farm, acres and kind of crops grown, numbers and kind of livestock, type of machinery, etc. If horticulture or agribusiness, give full details in question 2 and omit question 3.

4. Describe completely all farm/horticultural/agribusiness jobs that you can perform and indicate amount of experience. (Example: operate self-propelled combine—200 hours; milked 30 cows—3 summers experience; farm machinery dealer-parts department—10 hours per week.)

5. List foreign languages, government and history courses taken in high school or college and indicate grade earned. If no language taken, indicate your plans for study.

6. Why are you interested in participating in the WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD program?

7. Number of years of vo-ag/FFA completed by June 19___. _____

8. Date you have or will graduate from high school. _____

9. Religion: _____ Would you object to attending a church of another faith while on the program ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Do you have a driver's license? ☐ Yes ☐ No. Is it valid for ☐ Truck ☐ Tractor on highway?

11. Can you attend the National FFA Convention in Kansas City following completion of your trip abroad? ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Indicate your preference for placement:

☐ Livestock
☐ Dairy
☐ Horticulture
☐ Field Crops
☐ Agri-business
(describe: _____)

13. Will this work experience program be set up to obtain high school credit? ☐ Yes ☐No. (If "yes" your vocational agriculture instructor should contact the National FFA Center to arrange for reporting and grading systems. See page 3.)

14. List your preferences of country assignment. Refer to page 3 for instructions.

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

15. Check length of program desired:

☐ 3 months (Approximately June 5—September 15)
☐ 6 months (Approximately June 5—December 10)
☐ 1 year (From approximately June 5—6 months Northern hemisphere followed by 6 months Southern hemisphere.)

16. List other organizations to which you belong.

Include as a part of this application *three* letters of recommendation from your vocational agriculture teacher, high school principal, or college professor, and a neighbor. Letters should be sealed, or forwarded separately to the State FFA Office. Attach *three* passport-size (2½ x 3″), or school photos, signed on the reverse side.

Date _____ Applicant's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Chapter Advisor _____

State FFA Office Evaluation and Recommendations:

State Advisor/Executive Secretary

IP-2
(Rev. 74)

CHAPTER APPLICATION TO HOST A WEA EXCHANGE STUDENT

School Name _____ (area code) / School Phone Number _____

Address _____ (area code) / Advisor's Home Phone _____

Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____

(Complete the following items and forward to the State FFA Office.)

Please give the name, address, and phone number of the proposed host family/ies, names and ages of children at home. (Note: More than one family may host an exchange.)

Indicate size of farm, kinds and acres of crops, kinds and numbers of livestock, and farm equipment. If horticulture or agribusiness, give all available details on training experiences available.

Describe the work experience the student could expect (such as: milking cows, plowing, baling hay, etc.)

List community and FFA activities that the exchange student could observe or participate in.

We (can) (cannot) arrange for the exchangee to attend the National FFA Convention along with our chapter or state delegation.

Our chapter and the host family/ies agree to provide room and board, plus the minimum stipend of $125 per month for a WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD student. Refer to page 4.

Chapter President	Advisor's Signature	Date

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION REPORT

Chapter Name
and Address: _____

_____

_____

Check if completed:

(No. 1, and at least one additional item, must be checked to qualify.)

_____ 1. Chapter Program of Activities included International Education as an activity.

_____ 2. Chapter selected and sponsored a member in an International Exchange Program.

Name of Participant _____

_____ 3. Chapter hosted a foreign exchangee.

Name and Country _____

_____ 4. Chapter supplied educational materials, corresponded with or otherwise promoted international good will with an agricultural group in another country.

Group and Country _____

_____ 5. Chapter conducted activity not covered above.

Describe _____

_____

_____

_____

This report covers the following period: _____

Signed: _____
Chapter President

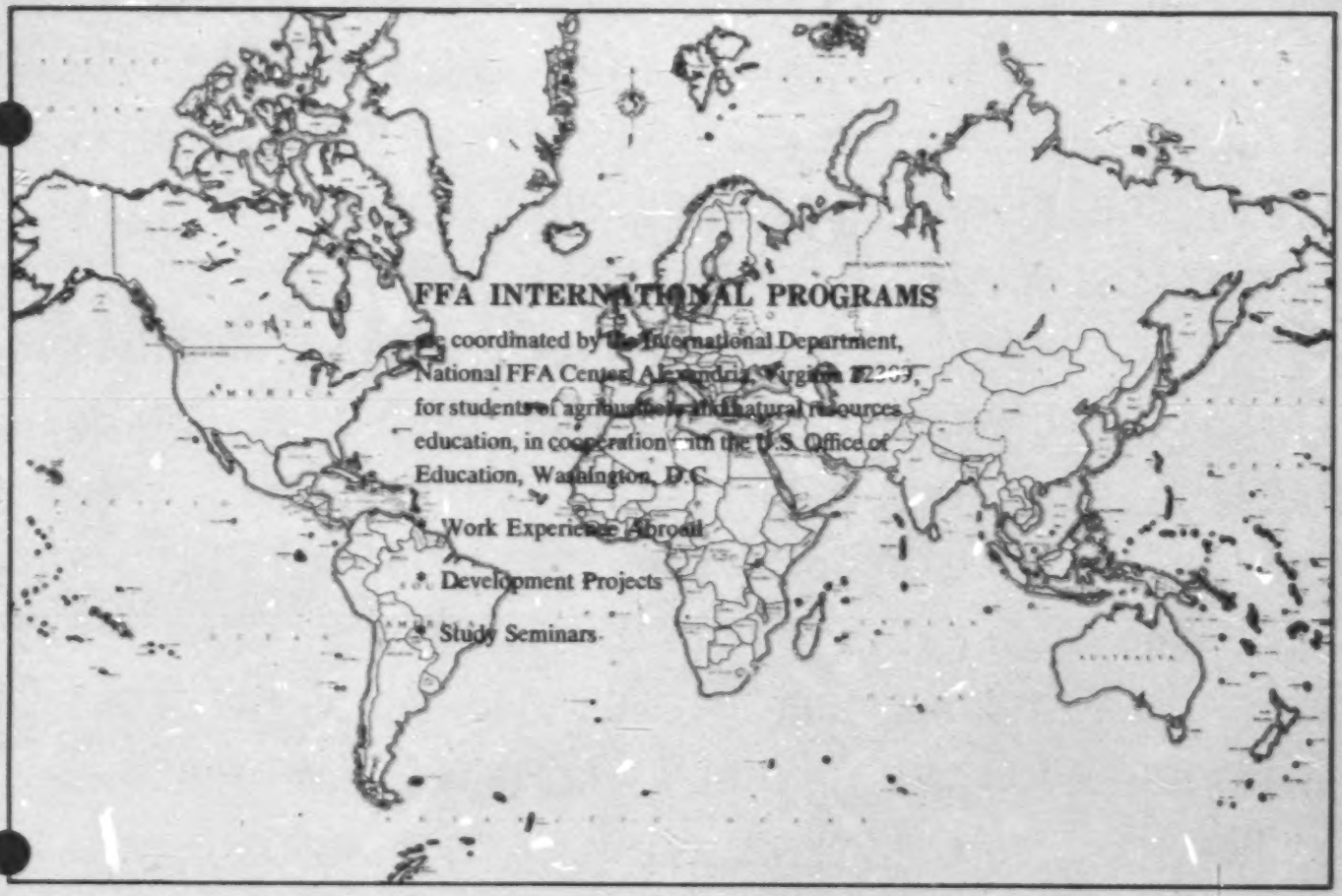
_____
Chapter Advisor

NOTE TO THE FFA CHAPTER:

This International Education Report should be submitted to the State FFA Office with your National Chapter Award Program application, but is *not* considered a part of that application. If you do not apply in the National Chapter Award Program this Report can be submitted separately. Chapters will be awarded the "Certificat de Mérite" by the National FFA Organization.

NOTE TO THE STATE OFFICE:

Forward in groups or individually to: International Dept., National FFA Center, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. Certificates for presentation to qualifying FFA Chapters will be mailed to the State FFA Office for the State Advisor's signature.



FFA INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Are coordinated by the International Department, National FFA Center, Alexandria, Virginia 22309, for students of agriculture and natural resources education, in cooperation with the U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

- Work Experience Abroad
- Development Projects
- Study Seminars

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